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Newsletter

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OFFICE FOR FOOD AND FEED CONSERVATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CLINTON P. ANDERSON, Secretary of Agriculture
CHARLES F. BRANNAN, Director

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WASHINGTON ROUNDUP

A voluntary grain conservation agreement for the brewing industry has been approved by the Attorney General. This agreement has been submitted to the industry for formal acceptance. It is to become effective April 15 extending at least through June 30.

The agreement provides: (1) No brewer will use wheat or table grade rice. (2) The use of malt will be limited to five percent more than during the comparable months of 1947. (3) The use of all other grains will be reduced 15 percent below the comparable months of 1947. (4) No brewer will be asked to get along on less than 120,000 pounds of grain and grain products monthly.

At the same time, the Industries Division of the Office for Food and Feed Conservation is exploring the possibilities of effecting voluntary agreements with wholesale bakers, flour millers, mixed feed manufacturers, corn refiners, dry corn processors and other grain-consuming industries.

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Severe losses in farm-stored wheat may result in the winter wheat area this spring unless suitable action is taken immediately to fumigate infested grain to control insects. With warmer weather here, the danger of grain loss by insects is increasing. An unusually large amount of grain is stored in farm bins with nearly half of the 427 million bushels of winter wheat, in storage early in the year, in Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado and New Mexico. Farm storage is estimated at 25 percent greater than last year.

The Department of Agriculture is urging farmers to inspect their bins and contact their county agents for information on fumigation if they find insects present in their bin-stored grain. Radio spot announcements have been sent to 330 stations to warn farmers of the necessity for insect control.

(NOTE: Various agencies of the Department have joined hands to encourage farmers to protect their stored grain. State and local food committees are urged to cooperate by contacting county agents for information as to the part they can play in this vital phase of the grain conservation program.)

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The need for feed conservation is indicated in the latest report on the dairy situation released by the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Farmers are adjusting to higher feed prices and the smaller feed supply per unit by reducing numbers and by feeding some animals at lower rates.

The number of milk cows has declined since 1944 after reaching a record in the middle of that year. The reduction since then amounts to 10 percent for the nation as a whole.

Because of smaller production, prices of milk produced for fluid consumption have fallen less so far this year than in early 1947. Prices for all manufactured dairy products also were higher in mid-March than a year earlier. Compared with mid-March 1947, prices were higher by 14 percent for butter, 6 percent for evaporated milk, 55 to 70 percent for dry nonfat milk solids and 12 percent for condensed and dry whole milk.

Hence grain conservation, by assuring farmers more plentiful feed, can help to maintain better supplies of the No. 1 protective food at possibly somewhat lower prices.

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The Office for Food and Feed Conservation has asked State Extension Directors for a special report on rat-control activities. These reports should be in by May 1. It is expected that these fact-finding surveys will serve as an over-all summary and, at the same time, provide guidance for future activities in regard to rat control.

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The latest price index provides mounting evidence of the necessity for added emphasis on food and feed conservation to combat high prices. Prices for meat animals regained about one-quarter of the ground lost during February when there was a sharp break in prices on the grain commodities markets.

During the month ended March 15, prices of feed grains and hay rose to bring the index of this group of commodities to 284 percent of its 1909-14 base period level, an increase of 23 points over a month earlier.

While the prices of grain and grain products were going up, prices for most commercial vegetables dropped rather sharply during the past month. The current index of 295 is 25 points below last month and 4 points below last March.

Thus, there is good reason for everybody to use economical dishes that provide more vegetables and less grain-consuming foods.

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Here is a roundup of reports on grain conservation activities by area offices of the Department's Production and Marketing Administration working in cooperation with the Office for Food and Feed Conservation:

DALLAS -- The last three issues of Farm and Food News pointed out the need for saving grain by feeding livestock to lighter weights. This service is sent to 89 Southwestern radio stations for use by newscasters in farm programs.

Food in the News plugged the consumer aspect of the conservation drive. This service for food editors and radio home economists is used by 230 radio and newspaper writers.

This office of PMA also has started a new weekly feature radio service called Farm Marketing Spots. These are timely subjects about the conservation drive which program announcers can splice in between programs or with station breaks. The first issue was sent to 307 radio stations.

CHICAGO -- Following is a quote from a letter from the School of Home Economics of Michigan State College:

"The School of Home Economics has a daily 15-minute broadcast for homemakers....We have been able to direct our broadcasts toward the food conservation program by highlighting foods that are in good supply. We always include some information on Saturday broadcasts about foods that are in good supply and often use a short or 'fill-in' to supplement the regular scripts on other days of the week."

NEW YORK -- This area's PMA publication, Food Supplies and Markets, urged the consumption of citrus and dried fruits.

ATLANTA -- A special list of foods that will be plentiful in April in the Southern area was prepared for release to the Southern Hotel Journal and the Virginia Foodsman.

SAN FRANCISCO -- Material on the abundance of western figs get a big play in the March 5 issue of The Farm, a California farm paper. Western Market Panorama, a review of the best buys in fruits and vegetables in the four major West Coast markets, took the back cover of Factors in Food.

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Cooperation in the grain conservation program is evidenced in the March Hatchery Report issued by the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This survey shows reduced settings of eggs during the first two weeks of March and a smaller quantity of chicks booked for delivery during April and May.

The report indicates that farmers intend to carry out their February 1 intentions to purchase 20 percent less chicks this year than last. Thus, with fewer chicks, there will be less grain consumed.

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Gardeners will find useful information in the pamphlets, "Growing Vegetables in Town and City" and "The Farm Garden," now available free in adequate supply from The Office of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

FREEDOM GARDENS IN MEMPHIS

The City of Memphis has worked out an excellent plan for implementing its Freedom Gardens Program. Under this plan, the city is making available, for gardening purposes free of charge, all property owned by it and not scheduled for immediate use. About 500 vacant plots have been offered by the city.

Civic clubs have agreed to work each of their respective sections to produce as many gardens as possible. Co-sponsor of the program with the

daily newspaper, the Commercial Appeal, is the Council of Civic Clubs which is made up of 33 individual civic organizations embracing all the City of Memphis and the County of Shelby.

Every day from April 1 through May 30 the Commercial Appeal will publish a list of all the people who are available for the plowing of the various plots of ground together with their telephone numbers. Walter M. Simmons, chairman of the garden committee, regards this as a helpful service for many people who would like to have gardens but have no way of finding out how to have the soil prepared.

The Commercial Appeal has agreed to furnish the publicity and all prizes necessary to the success of establishing the campaign.

MAGAZINE DEVOTES ISSUE TO FOOD

The March issue of the national magazine, Survey Graphic, is devoted entirely to the importance of food in the world. The publication carries this message:

"You know only too well that the high cost of Food nearly empties your pocketbook every time you call on the butcher and the grocer. That is your Food problem.

"In many countries, the Food is not there to buy! That is their food problem.

"In one way or another, Food is a major problem all over the world. It is the key to trade and the warding off of depression -- to peace, social progress, to the survival of the United Nations...."

The articles are written by well-known writers such as Sir John Boyd Orr, Director General of UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, and Norris E. Dodd, Undersecretary of Agriculture.

Survey Graphic suggests that copies of this issue be distributed by readers to "forward looking friends and neighbors" such as teachers, church, business and labor leaders, and members of women's clubs and discussion groups.

We will keep you informed on events in Washington and the programs of local committees and organizations. We welcome your suggestions and invite you to send us news of your activities in the voluntary food and feed conservation program.